

## REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain in this application. The independent claims, Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 21 and 22, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. A Letter Transmitting Corrected Drawing Sheets is submitted herewith, in response to the objections to the drawings set out in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 12, 13, 16 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,434,684 (Sugiyama). Claims 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Sugiyama* in view of U.S. Patent 6,611,355 (Kizawa), Claims 4 and 15, as being obvious from *Sugiyama* in view of U.S. Patent 6,323,872 (Wozniak), Claims 6, 11, 17 and 22, as being obvious from *Sugiyama* in view of U.S. Patent 6,335,966 (Toyoda), and Claims 7 and 18, as being obvious from *Sugiyama* in view of *Toyoda* and U.S. Patent 5,818,870 (Yaguchi).

As is discussed at greater length in Applicant's specification, the frequent need to transmit a color image as an attachment to e-mail has given rise to significant problems, in that the color standards for facsimile transmission and for Internet transmission are different from each other, and as a result a recipient may be unable to process a received e-mail attachment in the manner required to reproduce the image properly.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image communication apparatus that comprises a selector, arranged to select an image transmission method, and a converter, arranged to perform color space conversion corresponding to the selected transmission method for an image to be transmitted before a start of communication with a

communication partner. Also provided in the apparatus are an encoder, arranged to encode the image subjected to the color space conversion, and a transmitter arranged to transmit the encoded image by the selected transmission method.

*Sugiyama* relates to a color image communication in which color image data is transmitted through a digital circuit, and data representing a color expression form of the digital color image data also is transmitted. The color expression data may for example communicate that the color image data is RGB data, or that another system of representing color information is being utilized. Also, if the sending side is informed by the recipient that the latter has a particular color space available (as in step S15 of Fig. 7), the transmitting side can perform color conversion on the color image data (step S17). While this conversion is performed before the converted color data thus produced is transmitted, the conversion is performed based on information received from the recipient, as part of the same transmission procedure (that is, steps S15 and S17 both occur *during*, not prior to, communication between the two partners). Applicant submits that nothing in *Sugiyama* would teach or suggest any arrangement in which a color-space conversion is performed by a transmitting-side apparatus *before* the start of communication with a communication partner, as recited in Claim 1, and for at least that reason, Claim 1 is deemed to be clearly allowable over *Sugiyama*.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to an image communication apparatus that comprises a selector, arranged to select an image transmission destination, and a converter, arranged to perform color space conversion corresponding to the selected transmission destination for an image to be transmitted before a start of communication with the selected destination. The apparatus of Claim 12 also comprises an encoder, arranged to encode the

image subjected to the color space conversion, and a transmitter, arranged to transmit the encoded image by a transmission method corresponding to the selected transmission destination..

Claim 12 is believed to be allowable over *Sugiyama* for at least the reasons presented above in connection with Claim 1.

Each of the other independent claims is either a method or a computer program product claim respectively corresponding to one or the other of apparatus Claims 1 and 12, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with the latter claims.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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